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MT-060 Squadron *focus*

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY: MAJOR ROB HOFFMAN
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Commander's Corner

By: 1st Lt. Shelly Hoffman

March was busy for the squadron. We completed the second phase of Ground Team training under Major Rob Hoffman's direction. We now have certified and mission capable Ground Team Members and Ground Team Leaders within the Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron.

Our Team America Rocketry Challenge Team members are still hard at work designing a model rocket for the National Competition. Captain Gil Johnson and 1st Lt. Dennis Coulson have been joined by 1st Lt. Duane Lund in this endeavor. Keep up the good work!

The Montana Aviation Conference was held in Helena

this month. Thanks to all of the participants who helped with the Civil Air Patrol booth. You did an outstanding job representing our squadron.

Congratulations to the cadets for coming up with a logo for the squadron T-shirts, "In Pursuit of Honor". This is an excellent value to uphold as members of our squadron. Wear this T-shirt with pride!

We have many activities planned for the month of April. Guest speakers, tours, the combined squadron trip to the indoor climbing wall in Butte, and the Wing Conference in Billings.

Parents thank you for your continued support.



New Squadron T-Shirt



ACTIVITY WATCH (March)

April 8 (Saturday) Indoor Climbing Wall Joint Activity, Butte
April 28-30* Montana Wing Conference, Billings

* denotes a Wing activity



SQUADRON NEWS

Lewis and Clark Composite Supports the 2006 Montana Aviation Conference By: Major Rob Hoffman

Helena, MT – The Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron supported the 2006 Montana Aviation Conference by staffing the Montana Wing recruiting and information booth. Squadron members spent their days educating conference attendees on the Montana Wing Civil Air Patrol Program.

The Montana Aviation Conference is held annually throughout the state specifically for the Montana Aviation Community. The conference is sponsored by the Montana Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division.

Helena members that attended were:

C/TSGT Spencer Gilchrist	Cadet First Sergeant
C/MSGT Casey Johnson	Cadet Flight Sergeant
C/2d Lt. Ashley Smith	Cadet Commander
1 st Lt. Donald Eisenmenger	Supply/Logistics Officer
1 st Lt. Duane Lund	Deputy Commander of Cadets
1 st Lt. Dennis Coulson	Deputy Commander of Seniors
1 st Lt. Shelly Hoffman	Squadron Commander
Capt. Gil Johnson	Flight Operations Officer
Maj. Rob Hoffman	MT Wing Chief of Staff

Picture Descriptions:

Picture 1: Recruiting in action. 1st Lt. Duane Lund and Captain Gil Johnson talk to a conference attendee about the Civil Air Patrol. (By: Rob Hoffman)

Picture 2: Challenge Education with Aviation Class. 1st Lt. Shelly Hoffman and Major Rob Hoffman participated in Major Ebelt's workshop in between manning the Wing booth. (By: Jeanne MacPhearson)

Picture 3: Cadet Recruiters. Cadets Casey Johnson, Spencer Gilchrist, and Ashley Smith give up their Saturday to do a little recruiting. (By: R. Hoffman)

Picture 4 (Bottom Left): Working while working. 1st Lt. Hoffman and Major Doris Van Hoven (Wing PAO) go over Squadron issues while working the Wing booth. (By: Rob Hoffman)

Picture 5 (Bottom Right): Eric Lindbergh. 1st Lt Shelly Hoffman and Major Rob Hoffman pose with Eric Lindbergh at the Montana Aviation Conference Dinner. (By: Kaye Ebelt)



Winter Survival FTX

By: Major Rob Hoffman

Helena, MT – The Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron hosted the second part of the Winter Survival School consisting of an overnight Winter Field Training Exercise on March 25th and 26th in East Helena. Three Squadrons, the Butte Composite Squadron, Big Sky Composite Squadron, and Lewis and Clark Composite Squadron participated in the activity making it a huge success. Cadet Gilchrist and his family did an excellent job supporting the activity and making the Squadrons feel welcome. Thank you Gilchrist family!

Cadets and seniors received valuable training in shelter building, food/water preparation and rationing, stretcher carry, line searches, ELT location with the tracker system, and cold weather survival all in heavy wet snow conditions.

Here is what Captain Mike Harrison; the Butte Composite Squadron Commander had to say about the activity. “What an excellent experience! The Helena Winter FTX was well planned and executed. I really enjoyed working with this team. Thank you all for a great weekend. Thanks especially to the Gilchrist Family for sharing their lovely home and pristine mountain property.”

Participants in the Wing Survival FTX were:

Alpha Team:

Captain Mike Harrison	Team Leader	MT-031
C/2d Lt. Ashley Smith	Assistant Team Leader	MT-060
SM Paul Thomas	Communications	MT-037
C/SSgt Matthew Harrison	Team Member	MT-031
C/A1C Bailey Thomas	Team Member	MT-037
C/A1C Zach Lauchenbruk	Team Member	MT-060
C/Amn Ben Suttley	Team Member	MT-031

Bravo Team:

1 st Lt. Duane Lund	Team Leader	MT-060
C/MSgt Spencer Gilchrist	Assistant Team Leader	MT-060
C/A1C Kyle Lake	Communications	MT-060
C/SSgt Sam Johnson	Team Member	MT-031
C/Amn Thomas Kund	Team Member	MT-060
C/Basic Kathryn Gregori	Team Member	MT-060
C/Basic Kelsey Johnson	Team Member	MT-060

Cadre:

Major Rob Hoffman	Course Director	MT-060
1 st Lt. Mike Avery	Cadre/Casualty	MT-031
1 st Lt. Jerry Lauchenbruk	Cadre/Medic	MT-060
2d Lt. Carolyn Bunegar	Cadre/Communications	MT-060
C/2d Lt. Lexi Lund	Cadre/Casualty	MT-060

“Lead, follow, or get out of the way!”



Picture Descriptions: (Taken by Major Rob Hoffman)

Picture 1: Team Leader Direction. Captain Mike Harrison directs ground team members.

Picture 2: Survival training dummy: Emergency Services dummy demonstrates why shelter is a necessity in freezing rain and snow weather conditions.

Picture 3: Team Picture. Both teams stop for a group picture.

Picture 4: Stretcher Exercise. Teams learn about the proper way to load and carry a stretcher.



Squadron Chain of Command



2nd Lieutenant
(O-1)



1st Lieutenant
(O-2)



Captain
(O-3)



Major
(O-4)



Lieutenant Colonel
(O-5)



Colonel
(O-6)



Brigadier General
(O-7)



Major General
(O-8)

Squadron Commander
Special Advisor to the Commander

1st Lt. Shelly Hoffman
Maj. Rob Hoffman

Deputy Commander of Seniors

Aerospace Education Officer
Communications Officer
Finance Officer
Flight Operations Officer
Supply and Logistics Officer
Emergency Services Officer
Public Affairs Officer
Recruiting and Retention Officer
Drug Demand Reduction
Moral Leadership Officer
Safety Officer
Personnel Officer
Professional Development
Medical Officer
Legal Officer
Operations Officer

1st Lt. Dennis Coulson
Vacant
2d Lt. Carolyn Bunegar
Pending
Capt. Gil Johnson
1st Lt. Donald Eisenmenger
1st Lt. Jerry Lachenbruch
Pending
Maj. Rob Hoffman
SSGT Drenda Carlson
1st Lt. Duane Lund
1st Lt. Dennis Coulson
2d Lt. Carolan Bunegar
2d Lt. Carolan Bunegar
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Deputy Commander of Cadets

Leadership Officer
Activities Officer
Cadet Programs Aerospace Officer

1st Lt. Duane Lund
Maj. Rob Hoffman
Vacant
Capt. Gil Johnson

Cadet Commander

Cadet Deputy Commander
Cadet Executive Officer
Cadet Flight Commander
Cadet First Sergeant
Cadet Flight Sergeant

C/2d Lt. Ashley Smith
Vacant
C/SMSGT Matthew Roddewig
Vacant
C/MSgt Spencer Gilchrist
C/MSgt Casey Johnson

Wing Chain of Command

Wing Commander
Wing Vice Commander
Wing Chief of Staff
Montana State Director

Col. Jan Van Hoven
Capt. Paul Tweden
Maj. Rob Hoffman
Mr. Joe Macklin

Cadet Information

April Cadet Schedule:

6 Apr Location: 1/189th Uniform: BDU

1800 - 1825 Cadet Testing (Optional)
1830 - 1840 Opening Formation
1845 - 2010 Drug Demand Reduction
2015 - 2055 Moral Leadership
2055 - 2100 Closing Formation, Announcements

8 Apr Location: 1/189th Uniform: BDU

0815 - 0830 Assemble for trip to Butte
(Weather dependent departure time.)
1000 - 1200 Climbing Wall in Butte
1300 - 1430 Return Helena

13 Apr Location: 1/189th Uniform: BDU

1830 - 1845 Staff briefing before load up to HCT
1900 - 2000 Tour HCT airplane hangers
2010 - 2050 US Marshall's Service Presentation
2050 - 2100 Closing Formation, Announcements
Alternate plans if needed: Kite assembly

20 Apr Location: 1/189th Uniform: BDU

1830 - 1930 Aerospace Education
1930 - 1945 Safety Briefing
1945 - 2045 Emergency Services

27 Apr Location: 1/189th Uniform: BDU

1800 - 1825 Cadet Testing (Optional)
1830 - 1930 Aerospace Education (FAA simulator)
1935 - 2035 Leadership: Devils Brigade History
2040 - 2100 Flight Time, or FAA Flight Simulator if available

28 - 30 Apr Location: Billings Uniform: Blues

28th Depart to Billings, Time to be announced
29th Wing Conference
30th Return Helena

Promotions

Matthew Roddewig	C/SMSGT
Spencer Glichrist	C/MSGT
Casey Johnson	C/MSGT
Zach Lachenbruch	C/A1C
Thomas Lund	C/AMN

Monthly Photo Section: Cadets in action



"Cadet O-Rides with Lt/Col Tom Connor"



"Cadets enjoy a top notch FAA presentation."



"Cadets enjoy a monthly Counter Drug and leadership course given by SSGT Drenda Carlson of the MTANG Counter drug Program."



EMERGENCY SERVICES CORNER

By: 1st Lt Jerry Lachenbruch

What makes a good survival knife?

There have been many things written in regards to the “perfect” survival knife, many of them have been written to simply sell knives. I recall years ago after the first of many “Rambo” movies had come out in theatres, a blade smith named Jimmy Lile created what was thought to be the be all end all in survival knives. The truth is that many decades before Rambo, survival knives had been produced without the dedicated “Survival Knife” moniker and it didn’t even have a saw back.

The first recognized survival knife was most likely the Bowie knife that allegedly was used by Jim Bowie in the great sandbar fight. While some disagree about the authenticity, it is simple fact that the style of knife that was used virtually exploded and became widely sought after by soldiers, mountain men, and wilderness adventurers. All Jimmy Lile did was to take a common style and cut “saw bits” into the spine of the knife and shazam the survival knife was born.

If we look back into the history of the 19th and 20th century’s life was not nearly as luxurious as we have it today. Knives were a critical tool, so much so that every person venturing out into the woods had a good stout knife with him or her.

The first direct marketed survival knife came into being in the late fifties when the United States Navy Weapons Bureau approached Marbles Knife company with the concept of a dedicated pilot survival knife. The design was an offshoot of the Marble Woodsman knife. The changes were very similar to what we know now as the Ontario made “Survival Knife, Pilot

What is the difference between the Rambo and the military pilot survival knife? Size is the difference. The Rambo knife has an approximately 11” blade while the military survival knife has a blade length of 5”. While I do think the Rambo knife is a bit large, I do see the pilot survival knife as a good entry survival knife. The key to learning about using a survival knife is learning multiple use and finesse.

So just what does make the “perfect” survival knife? In my opinion there is no perfect all around does everything but the dishes survival knife. As a hobby I periodically build knives and hang around with knife builders. We all have differing opinions in what makes a good survival knife. I personally feel that there are ten things that make a good survival knife and must have the following attributes.

1. A full tang construction
2. Good carbon steel blade or high carbon stainless steel blade
3. A single blade style with no serrations
4. No saw back on the spine of the knife and have a thickness of no less than 5/16ths inches for the spine
5. Good sturdy gripping surface
6. Easy to re-sharpen
7. 7” blade
8. Drop or clip point
9. Provision for a lanyard
10. A sturdy sheath, preferably with a pouch on the front.

I personally carry a blade made by a dear personal friend who is now deceased. Rob Simonich taught me everything I know about making knives and to him I am deeply grateful. With that said, I have a Simonich Raven attached to my pack and I carry a Simonich Pikuni on my belt. The Raven meets all the points that I have expressed as a good blade.

Many years ago I started off with a KaBar Huntsman sheath knife that was my grandfathers. My son Zachary now has that knife as his survival knife. KaBar and have made military knives since the forties and make wonderful production knives. These knives are typically carbon steel with a good stout spine and terrific sharpen ability and would make someone a great survival knife.

Survival knives don’t stop at having a knife. The skills in which we use them, care for them and store them are equally if not more important than simply having a knife.

Stay tuned for next month and the continuation of the “perfect survival knife”



Senior Information

April Senior Schedule:

April 6, 2006 Thursday – Blues

1830 – 1840 Squadron Opening Formation

1840 – 1910 Drill and Ceremonies

1910 – 2010 Leadership Lab.

2010 – 2055 Section Time

2055 – 2100 Squadron Closing Formation

April 8, 2006 Saturday – BDU (Seniors Welcome)

0830 – 0845 Assemble for trip to Butte

1000 – 1200 Climbing Wall activity in Butte

1300 – 1430 Return to Helena

April 13, 2006 Thursday - BDU

1800 – 1825 Cadet Testing (optional)

1830 – 2000 Tour Aeronautics Facility

2010 – 2050 US Marshal Presentation

2050 – 2100 Squadron Closing Formation

April 20, 2006 Thursday – BDU

1830 - 1930 Intro to CAPR 39-1

1930 – 1945 Safety Briefing

1945 – 2045 Emergency Services

2045 – 2100 Squadron Closing Formation

April 27, 2006 Thursday - BDU

1800 – 1825 Cadet Testing (optional)

1830 – 1930 Communications

1935 – 2035 Flight Operations

2040 – 2100 Senior Staff Meeting

April 28-30, 2006 FRI,SAT,SUN – Blues

Montana Wing Conference

Promotions

No senior promotions this month.

The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.

- Albert Einstein

Monthly Photo Section: Seniors in action



"Lt/Col Connor takes Helena pilots through training"



"1st Lt. Shelly Hoffman hard at work"



"1st Lt. Duane Lund saving lives"